

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 00516 030513Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 /026 W  
-----022197 040249Z /75  
R 021433Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7151

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, ET, US  
SUBJ: PROTEST OVER CHARGE'S ABSENCE AT RALLY

1. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GETANEH HAILE-MARIAM CALLED ME IN FEB 2 ON INSTRUCTIONS TO INDICATE THAT MY FAILURE TO ATTEND FEB 1 PUBLIC RALLY AND DECISION TO SEND INSTEAD JUNIOR OFFICER OF EMBASSY WAS BREACH OF PROTOCL, AND THAT EPMG WANTED TO KNOW REASON WHY I HAD CHOSEN TO SLIGHT PMAC CHAIRMAN IN THIS MANNER. HE ADDED THAT HE SAW SECOND SECRETARY ROTH LEAVING STADIUM BEFORE RALLY, BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO REACH HIM IN TIME TO DETERMINE WHAT DIFFICULTIES WERE IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ATTENDANCE.

2. I TOLD GETANEH THAT FACT THAT MOFA HAD FAILED TO ADVISE EMBASSIES INDIVIDUALLY OF INVITATION, AND THAT OUR EMBASSY ONLY LEARNED OF RALLY SECOND-HAND THROUGH RUMOR COULD ALSO BE CONSIDERED BREACH OF PROTOCOL. NEWS THAT DIP CORPS WAS INVITED TO RALLY SPECIFIED NO PARTICULAR LEVEL AT WHICH EMBASSIES SHOULD BE REPRESENTED. IN ANY EVENT, CHIEF OF MISSION HAS RIGHT TO DESIGNATE REPRESENTATIVE IF HE HIMSELF IS UNABLE TO ATTEND. I CONTINUED THAT, SINCE EMBASSY HAD LEARNED THAT POSSIBLY HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION WOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE ITS GATES YESTERDAY MORNING, IT WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY TO REMAIN AT CHANCERY TO DO WHAT I COULD TO PROTECT  
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AND QUIET ANXIETIES OF MEMBERS OF MY STAFF AND THE FAMILIES LIVING ON THE COMPOUND. IN ABSENCE OF POLICONS, SECOND SECRETARY SEEMED APPROPRIATE REPRESENTATIVE. HE ARRIVED AT STADIUM WITH AMERICAN FLAG FLYING, ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT US WAS NOT INVITED. SINCE US WAS ONLY COUNTRY TREATED IN THIS MATTER, I WOULD BE JUSTIFIED IN TAKING THIS AS AN INSULT TO

THE FLAG OF U.S., PARTICULAR SINCE PRES. CARTER WAS ONLY CHIEF OF STATE SINGLED OUT AS LEADER OF ANTI-ETHIOPIAN CONSPIRACY BY CHAIRMAN MENGISTU IN JAN 30 SPEECH. INSTEAD, I HAD DECIDED IT WAS SIMPLE ERROR ON PART OF INSUFFICIENTLY INSTRUCTED EPMG OFFICIAL.

3. GETANEH AT THIS POINT BEGAN TO APOLOGIZE, CLAIMING THAT ROTH SPOKE ONLY WITH POLICE GUARD AT ENTRANCE, WHO TOLD HIM HE HAD ARRIVED TOO EARLY AND THAT HE SHOULD HAVE ENTERED AT DIFFERENT GATE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT APPROPRIATE MEASURES WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST MAN WHO TURNED ROGH AWAY AND ENDED CONVERSATION BY STATING THAT MY EXPLANATION OF YESTERDAY'S INCIDENT WAS ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY, AND THAT MATTER FROM EPMG STANDPOINT WAS CONSIDERED CLOSED. HE VOLUNTEERED AND I AGREED INCIDENT SHOULD NOT CAUSE HARD FEELINGS IN ERA OF ALREADY DIFFICULT BILATERAL RELATIONS.

4. AS REPORTED EARLIER, WESTERN "FIVE" HAD ALL DECIDED TO SEND REPS, AND SOME NEUTRAL AND NON-ALIGNED AMBS, INCLUDING SWISS AND AUSTRIAN, HAD REFUSED TO BE REPRESENTED AT ALL. BRIT AMB DAY HAS, FOLLOWING HIS OWN DRESSING-DOWN FROM GATENEH, INFORMED ME THAT CHIEF OF PROTOCOL HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL IN ALL COMS WHO FAILED TO ATTEND, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE AFRICANS, GETANEH, INSISTED, IN RESPONSE TO DAY'S QUESTION.

5. AS OF TODAY, GATENEH HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN REPLACED BY ESHETU DESTA AS CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, PRESUMABLY BECAUSE HE IS A HOLD-OVER FROM ANCIEN REGIME. MATHERON

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PDIP, ET, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014